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speculations largely eliminated. The author belonged to the Ritschlian school, and did much to commend the religious ideal of the school to the present generation.

FISCHER, E. FR. *Das Gottesproblem*. Grundlegung einer Theorie der christlich-religiösen Gotteserkenntnis. Leipzig: Deichert, 1913. vi+286 pages. M. 7.

The author of this monograph is a German pastor, who evidently feels that the somewhat involved theories of knowledge underlying most modern systems of theology are unsatisfactory to the philosopher and perplexing to the layman. He declares that the prevailing fashion of renouncing strict scientific proof of theological propositions and appealing to value-judgments involves an unjustifiable extension of the value-judgment to validate historical facts. When once this is discovered, it lends an air of insecurity to the whole theological structure.

The bulk of the book is devoted to a keen criticism of typical current theological theories of knowledge on the part of those who hold to the exclusive revelation-value of Jesus. Ihmels, Julius Kaftan, and Häring are selected as prominent representatives of orthodox religious beliefs set forth by means of an unorthodox theory of knowledge. In opposition to the confusing intermingling of practical and theoretical knowledge which Fischer finds in these theologians, he undertakes to establish a clear dividing line between what may be objectively proved concerning Jesus, and that which is a matter of uncertainty. By so doing, he believes he can avoid the temptation to call in "faith" to validate historical facts. Given the historical certainty which critical science can furnish, faith may then value these historic facts in accord with justifiable epistemological principles.

Applying what he believes to be strict historical canons to the gospel records, Fischer "historically establishes" the actual existence of Jesus, his superhuman consciousness, his sinlessness, his bodily resurrection, and his miracle-working power. "Dies stellte sich dem geschichtlichen, kritischen, theoretischen Erkennen dar." Further statements about the nature of Christ cannot be made by historical science. Faith, however, may build with security upon this foundation.

In another volume, the author purposes to set forth his doctrine of God on the basis of these objectively established facts concerning Jesus as the revelation of God.

MISCELLANEOUS

De la Mettrie, Julien Offray: Man a Machine. Including Frederick the Great's *Eulogy* on La Mettrie and Extracts from La Mettrie's *The Natural History of the Soul*. Philosophical and historical notes by Gertrude Carmen Bussey. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co., 1912. 216 pages.

The publication of this interesting and characteristic product of the empiricism of the early eighteenth century adds to the service which the Open Court Publishing Company is rendering by making accessible in good English some of the important works of early modern philosophy. In the present edition a critically revised French text is given in full, followed by a lucid English version. Some suggestive comparisons between the position of La Mettrie and other representatives of the empirical-sensationalist movement are furnished by Miss Carman, as the outcome of a Master's thesis at Wellesley.